THE HINDOO PATRIOT

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Per Annum in Advance.
TOWN.....11-8
MOFUSSIL.....13-4

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ASIATIC SOCIETY

THE WEEK.

MONDAY, 21ST APRIL.

A GRAND OPPORTUNITY has been lost for the registration of comparative medical statistics in Calcutta. Cholera has raged this year with unprecedented virulence. The efficacy of allopathy and homœopathy has had a hard test. It would have served a great purpose if the medical practitioners of different persuasions had kept records of their individual experiences.

IT IS stated that Sir Charles Turner, Chief Justice of Madras, intends to retire from the service early next year.

IT IS stated that our well known fellow citizen Mr. Ezra has offered to present the town with a fountain, to be placed opposite his house in Chauringhi, provided it be lighted and supplied with water at the expense of the Municipality. Of the four fountains presented by the late Babu Kaliprosunno Sing two only have been put up, but none of them has been supplied with water. The one ordered to be put up in front of his house has not yet been fitted up. Could any thing be more disgraceful than this? This is a clear case of breach of trust.

M. PASTEUR and his collaborateurs have announced to the French Academy of Sciences the fact that, by inoculation, they can render all dogs absolutely proof against the effect of rabies, in whatever way or quantity the virus may be administered.

THE BOARD OF REVENUE has issued the following rule regarding stamps:

When any person is in possession of an impressed court-fee stamp, which has not been spoiled or rendered unfit or useless for the purpose intended, but for which he has no immediate use, the Collector shall, if requested to do so, repay to such person the value of such a stamp in money, deducting any sum paid as discount on the sale of such stamp, upon such person delivering up the same to be cancelled, and proving to the Collector's satisfaction that it was purchased by such person with a *bonafide* intention to use it, and that he has paid the full price thereof, and that it was so purchased within the period of six months next preceding the date on which it is so delivered.

THE FRENCH SENATE proposes to try an experiment in the treatment of criminals which, should it be carried out, will be watched with some interest by other nations. It has just read for the first time a Bill, supported by the Government, providing that convicts sentenced to six months' imprisonment and upwards shall, if they have satisfied certain conditions, be not only released, but freed from all civil disqualifications at the end of half the term proposed by the court. The special feature of the proposal is that it makes the remission of a moiety of the sentence a matter of right, contingent only on the compliance of the convict with the conditions laid down. It will, no doubt, operate as a much more powerful stimulus to good conduct than any indulgence dependent on the discretion of the executive.

WE TAKE the following from the *Pioneer*:

An affray of rather serious proportions has occured in Mewar between the troops of the Maharana and one of his jagheerdars. The affair seems to have arisen out of an adoption case in which the jagheerdar thought himself badly treated, and refused to attend the installation. Troops were sent to his estate, Bohr-ra, to bring him to a better frame of mind, and a pitched battle ensued which ended in the loss of a good many lives and the capture of the recalcitrant baron. The Rana's force put their casualties at a resaldar and three sepoys killed, and seven wounded; the losses of the Bohr-ra people were first reckoned at a very high figure, but really amount to 13 killed and 18 wounded.

TUESDAY, 22ND APRIL.

A COACHING CLUB has been formed in Hyderabad, of which his Highness the Nizam is President and the Nawab Rumnadas Sultan is Vice-President. The objects of the club are said to be two-fold—namely, one to afford healthy amusement to the members attending the meet, and the other to improve the style of the equipages in the city.

THE SYNDICATE of the Madras University has recommended the adoption of the following additional bye-law:—"No question shall be put at any University examination calling for a declaration of religious belief on the part of the candidate, and no answer or translation given by any candidate shall be objected to on the ground of its expressing any peculiarity of religious belief."

WITH A VIEW to effect a saving in the Commissariat Department in Madras, it is intended to appoint Natives as Store-keepers in the room of Store Sergeants. Natives are both economical and efficient.

JUDGMENT has been delivered in the Hyderabad libel case. We give the following telegram from the *Indian Daily News*:

Hyderabad, April 19th, 14h. 7m.—Judgment was delivered in the Hyderabad libel case to-day. The following is a summary of the judgment. The first plea of estoppel must fall to the ground, seeing that even if the plaintiff had ever to d a story of himself similar to that contained in the libel, his doing so could not warrant the defendants publishing the same in a newspaper. Secondly, the publication was in no way privileged, as alleged by the defendants, by virtue of the plaintiff having written on political matters in the public Press. It has been distinctly laid down in the case of *Howard vs. Mull* that privileged occasions in the Civil law of libel in India are limited by the sixth Exception of section 499 of the Indian Penal Code, under which the conduct of a public man can only be criticised in respect of acts which he has submitted to the judgment of the public. Thirdly, as to the main plea of justification on the ground of the truth of the libel, the Court considers the defendants have completely failed. The Court is of opinion that the libel clearly charges the plaintiff with having committed an indictable offence of the nature of premeditated fraud on Poorunmull's firm, whereas no single item of evidence has been offered by the defendants' own witnesses in support of the idea of any fraud having ever been committed by the plaintiff, their own witnesses stating, on the contrary, that the plaintiff had acted as he did for the purpose of defeating a fraud attempted on the Bank. Fourthly, the plaintiff had, however, admitted that, in order to defeat the said fraud, he had had recourse to a stratagem which the Court considered objectionable in one occupying the plaintiff's responsible position, though the purpose thereof was to protect the interests committed to his care. Fifthly, the defendants had not shown good faith and ordinary care in publishing and adhering to this libel; their manner of insisting on the plea of justification amounts to a great aggravation, and shows a malicious determination to injure the plaintiff's character; but in mitigation of the damages the Court further holds the plaintiff's violent attacks on the Indian political system in his public writings on the spoliation of India have in some degree tempted the defendants to criticise his private acts and character. Sixthly, under the circumstances, the Court holds that substantial, but not vindictive damages should be awarded, and therefore decrees against both the defendants, awarding damages H. S. Rupees 1,000 and costs of the suit against both defendants.

ACCORDING to a credulous writer the pipe which the Shah of Persia smokes in public on State occasions is entirely incrusted with diamonds, rubies, pearls, and emeralds, its estimated value being over £80,000 sterling.

THEY HAVE curious ways of rewarding merit in China. Li Hung-Chang, the great Chief Secretary, has been deemed worthy of special recognition, with the result that Her Majesty the Empress-Regent has been good enough to present him with "a few ounces of tobacco, a girdle, and some pieces of embroidery."

THE DYNAMITE MONTHLY is the name of a new journal, started in New York. The prospectus is especially alluring. "We believe," it says, "in dynamite, and not only in dynamite, but in the more simple sulphur match; and—shocking though it seems to the more superficial thinker—in the bullet, whether from within or without the ditch, and the knife in close quarters."

PESHAWAR, says a correspondent, is a perfect rose garden at present, as the roses are just beginning to come to perfection; most of the compounds are hedged with rose trees, but the most beautiful of all, and which, strange to say, thrive best here, are the Marshall Neil and Cloth of Gold. The roses of Lucknow, Lahore, and Allahabad are talked of as good, but they certainly are no better if as good as those at Peshawar; they come to greater perfection there owing to the cold weather lasting longer.

WEDNESDAY, 23RD APRIL.

A EUROPEAN lad has shot a Native lad at Bombay, under the following circumstances as telegraphed to the *Englishman*:—

Bombay 13th April.—On Friday three European lads, armed with an old fashioned Enfieldrifle, went out shooting on the outskirts of Bombay. They met with small success, and whi st resting in the verandah of Customs Chowkey, they were surrounded by a number of native lads, who chaffed them on the unsuccessful character of their exertions. This enraged the youthful sportsmen, who endeavoured to get rid of their tormentors at first by words, and when these failed to produce the desired effect, one of their number who had possession of the gun levelled it at the Natives, and fired. The weapon was only loaded with powder and a paper wad, but the latter struck one of the Native boys and caused a rather serious wound, necessitating his removal to hospital. During the day his condition became so serious that the Magistrate took his deposition. The boy who fired the gun was placed before the Magistrate yesterday on a charge of doing a rash and negligent act, and was remanded, being admitted to bail.

Accidents of this kind seem to be on the increase.

THE TIMES OF INDIA says that the Home Government have decided to make Ayub Khan a substantial annual allowance. The amount, it is expected, will be something between £4,000 and £8,000, and will, of course, be provided by the Indian exchequer. The money will be paid through the Shah of Persia, who has hitherto magnanimously declined to accept any payment from the British Government for the maintenance of Ayub and his following. What have the poor Indians done to deserve this penalty?

MR. BURJORJEE JAMASJEE PADSHAH, of the Elphinstone College, has won the silver medal offered by the Cobden Club to the Bombay University for proficiency in Political Economy.

MRS. ISABELLA MILLER has just died at the age of 104 years, at Boulby, a romantic village on the Yorkshire coast. The deceased was born at Swainby, near Stokesley, in 1780. Her husband died three months ago at the patriarchal age of 95 years.

WE REGRET to announce the death of Mr. Shaik Mahomed Abdool Latif, Arab pearl merchant. The deceased was a Justice of the Peace and was well known throughout India, Arabia and Persia, in all of which countries he carried on an extensive trade. The deceased was 78 years of age at the time of his death.

A correspondent writes from Odessa, March 17th:—"The Polish newspaper *Kri* (Border Land) states that there is at present in the Medical Faculty of the University of Kharkoff, a first year's student, named Dzeetchakovski, whose age is 60 years. In 1863 he was a third year student of the medical course at the University of Warsaw, but as he took part in the then Polish insurrection he was exiled to Siberia, and remained there till, in accordance with the Imperial Coronation Manifesto of last year, he in common with other Poles was allowed to return to Europe."

THE QUEEN has been pleased to present a very fine engraving by Mrs. Frank Holl of a picture of herself by Angeli to a centenarian named Rhoda Bunn, now residing at Hunstanton. The recipient was born at Beeston, in Norfolk, on February 23rd, 1781, and is, therefore, 103 years of age. She is now in pefect health, and boasts of never having ache or pain or of taking any medicine. She is also able to wait on herself, and her intellect is perfectly clear. Her father held a farm on the Sandringham estate for many years, and she had a sister who died at the advanced age of 96. It is needless to state that the Royal present has given her unbounded delight.

THURSDAY, 24TH APRIL.

THE THUNDER and lightning of last evening afforded great relief to the denizens of the town, but we seldom have unmixed good in this world. There were two violent strokes of lightning, one of which struck a tree near Cornwallis Square and the other a gunny-bag godown at Mallaparah in Puthuria Ghatta. The lightning passed through the tiled roof of the shed and in the twinkling of an eye set the gunnies ablaze. The fire-brigade was present and the water pipes full. So the fire was got under in no time.

WE HAVE received an elaborate report of the proceedings connected with the ceremony of distribution of prizes to the boys of the Behar School. It is not our practice to publish proceedings of this kind.

IT APPEARS from a statement published in the last *Calcutta Gazette* that the Accountant-General to the Government of Bengal holds in his hands invested funds to the value of Rs. 90,90,063-8-0. These funds are on account of charities, educational grants, securities of employes &c.

WE ARE glad to learn from a Resolution of the Government of Bengal that Babu Goluck Chunder Roy has offered to contribute Rs. 2000 to the fund for the construction of a building for the Chittagong Municipal School. He made the offer coupled with two conditions, *viz.*, that the building should bear Mr. Rivers Thompson's name, and that it should when necessary be utilized for public purposes. The Govern-

ment while thankfully accepting the offer is of opinion that it is undesirable to declare that the building may be utilized for the double purpose of a school and a hall for public meetings. The Resolution goes on to say that if the building were to be formally declared open for use as a Town Hall, the chief object for which it is intended would probably suffer.

WE HAVE before us a copy of a representation which the Burranagore Rate-Payers' Association have addressed the Government of India in the Home Department regarding the assessment of Mills situated within the limits of second class Municipalities in the suburbs. The Association have urged a strong and well reasoned protest against the provision of the new Municipal Act which will have the effect of reducing the rates leviable from such Municipalities. We are sorry we cannot publish the letter *in extenso* for want of space.

THE RESIDENTS of Noakhalli held a public meeting on the 9th instant for the purpose of expressing their sympathy and sorrow at the sad bereavement which Her Gracious Majesty the Queen Empress has suffered by the untimely death of her third son His Royal Highness the Duke of Albany. They resolved to send a telegram of condolence to His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and a copy of the Proceedings to His Excellency the Viceroy for transmission to Her Majesty the Queen-Empress and through her to the Duchess of Albany and the Royal family as an expression of sympathy for the sad bereavement. We regret our limited space prevents us to publish the proceedings *in extenso* as requested by the Honarary Secretary of the Executive Committee.

WE HAVE read with much pleasure and satisfaction the proceedings which took place at Soory in connection with the leave-taking of Mr. Tayler, the Judge of Birbhum lately transferred to Burdwan. We give below an abstract of the proceedings.

ON THE 10th instant on Mr. Tayler taking his seat on the bench the leader of the Birbhum bar, Babu D. K. Ghose, addressed the Judge on behalf of the bar and the native community, dwelling on his many virtues private and public, thanking him for his successful administration of justice and for the kindness and courtesy with which he treated every body with whom he came into contact. Mr. Tayler returned a feeling reply in which among other things he laid stress on the fact that he could not re-call a single instance in which there was friction between the Bench and the Bar.

AT 5 P. M. of the same day a meeting of the gentlemen of Soory was convened at the instance of Mr. K. P. Sing, a member of the local bar, to consider what steps should be taken to testify their gratitude to their distinguished and esteemd Judge, who was about to take leave of them. It was resolved to give a farewell dinner to Mr. and Mrs. Tayler on the 12th instant, to take a portrait of Mr. Tayler and to found some scholarships to perpetuate his memory. Subscriptions were at once opened for the defrayal of the expenses of carrying out the resolutions, Raja Ramrunjun Chuckervati headed to list with the munificent sum of Rs. 2,000. The farewell dinner was given at the residence of Dr. Roy, the Civil Surgeon, to which other European residents and visitors were invited. There was a display of fire-works on the arrival of the guests. The native gentlemen assembled outside the house, and here the hero of the evening came to take his farewell. Would that all district officers were equally popular!

FRIDAY, 24TH APRIL.

A HOOGHLY Correspondent writes to say that though the heat is fearful, cholera is gradually disappearing from the town. It is curious that pneumonia is widely prevalent in the Bulagurh Thanna of the District. The greatest inconvenience which the people suffer is the want of a competent doctor.

THE SAME correspondent states that the elections for the Head-Quarters Division Local Board have been concluded. There were 24 elections and about nine thousand electors were present, which gives one elector to every five houses and this proportion is very satisfactory. The work of attending at elections and management of the poll devolved upon Mr. De, the Joint-Magistrate, who did his work to the entire satisfaction of the electors.

THERE IS a Society at Halisahur under the name of "Good-Will Fraternity" which, our correspondent informs us, held its 21st anniversary meeting on the 12th April current at which Mr. De presided. Babu Ashootosh Biswas, a pleader of the Alipore Court, among other things harangued against the National Fund movement. His speech, we are told, produced great effect.

THE ESTIMATED home remittance for the current year is £16,580,000 of which £11,58,000 have been already remitted from 1st to 17th April current.

WE TAKE the following telegrams from the *Indian Daily News*:

Bombay, April 23rd, 15h. 9m.—The Hyderabad correspondent of the *Bombay Gazette* telegraphs that on the day previous to the Nizam's installation, a memorandum was placed in the Viceroy's hands, showing that the indebtedness of the State amounted to 4½ crores. H. E. the Viceroy, considering this state of affairs serious, requested the Nizam to direct the Minister and the other Officials to find out how matters really stood. This has now been done, and a memorandum drawn up by the Minister was sent yesterday to the Resident to be forwarded to the Viceroy.

The State debt proves to be about one crore of rupees, the largest item coming under the head of arrears of allowances to petty village officials who formerly were paid by land grants. These land grants were some years ago discontinued, and money payments substituted. Arrangements are being made to revert to the old system. A portion of the debt consists of payments to the Nizam's private treasury, which will probably be written off. The investigation has disclosed another fact that there are State claims amounting to 70 lakhs, which have not appeared in the accounts, but which are recoverable.

The Chanda Railway scheme has fallen through, the probable loss to the State being forty lakhs per annum.

The Peshkar's salary of Rs. 10,000 per month has been temporarily stopped, Rs. 5,000 goes towards the repayment of the money advanced by him from the treasury to the *Deccan Times* defence fund.

Khoorshed Jah is on his way to Simla to interview the Viceroy respecting the perpetuation of his Paigah rights. He having left Hyderabad without the Nizam's permission according to usage, the latter has telegraphed to the Viceroy requesting that the interview may not be granted.

The famous Mir Alam tank, from which the public and the nobles derive their water supplies has been closed, Nawab Salar Jung claiming it as his private property, it having been constructed by his great grandfather. The other nobles dispute his right. Unless the difficulty be settled soon, there is likely to be trouble.

ALLEN'S INDIAN MAIL has the following anent the Amended Tenancy Bill:

The Bill, as amended in Committee, strikes at landlords still more fiercely than Mr. Ilbert's original proposals—whilst it will convert the Bengal ryots very largely into mere day-laborers. The middleman and the money-lender, those pets of Radical legislation, will flourish on the improverishment of the zemindars and the degradation of the tenants. All this might have been foretold. But we were hardly prepared for the way in which the constitutional Opposition, as it now appears, was prevented from adequately discussing, or even considering, the various amendments. Mr. Ameer Ali appears to have been nominated to the Viceregal Council, and actually placed on the Select Committee, to report on this Bill, on the strength of an article recently published by him in an English magazine, warmly supporting Mr. Ilberts notions! And the two real exponents of Indian national feeling have been prevented from taking that part in the debate to which they were entitled by incessant and wearisome sittings, and by utterly inadequate notice of the libertite amendments continually sprung upon them. The dissent which the Maharajah of Darbhangah is to record will be looked for with keen interest by all lovers of constitutional freedom of debate; whilst the summary of the Hon. Kristodas Pal's dissent, which is given by the *Time's* correspondent, shows it to be a manly and vigorous protest, at once against the mad folly of the visionaries who are now misgoverning India, and against the exceedingly unfair methods by which the Bill has been rushed through the Select Committee, and the unseemly haste which has been displayed by the Viceregal Court in flying from the heat of Calcutta to the cool heights of Simla.

THE CENSUS RETURNS of ASSAM shew that there are in that province 2,210 widows under fifteen, 115,229 between fifteen and forty, and 250,846 above forty years of age. The total number of widowers is only 84,666.

IT IS STATED that a large and influential meeting of Mahomedans, held at Lucknow on the 12th instant, in support of Mr Wilfrid Blunt's scheme for the establishment of a Mahomedan University, Rajah Mahomed Amir Hossein of Mahmudabad, Oudh, subscribed one lac of rupees towards the scheme, and another influential Mahomedan gentleman presented Rs. 10,000.

SATURDAY 26TH APRIL.

THE BAN IMPOSED upon the *Madras Times* by Mr. Grant Duff for publishing a minute written by his Excellency with regard to one of his tours has at length been removed. The news of the restoration of the paper to gubernatorial favour is conveyed in a letter dated the 5th instant, from the Chief Secretary to Government to the heads of departments, the latter being informed that they are "no longer debarred from advertising in the *Madras Times*." Is Mr. Grant Duff coming back to his senses?

A CORRESPONDENT of a Madras paper urges that it is the "sacred and religious duty" of the inhabitants of Madras to call a public meeting to petition for the recall of Mr. Grant Duff. The writer says: "Educated native gentlemen must rise to the occasion and show when necessity arises what stuff they are made of. The time is very opportune; the whole of India is crying against the Government of Madras. Rise ye countrymen, protest to the great commoners of England in the most modest language possible that no human being can tolerate the administration of Mr. Grant Duff. They before whom the most powerful of Indian Governors *Clive* and *Hastings* stood aghast, will give a heedful ear to the cries of the dumb millions of India." Arise! awake! or be for ever fallen!

SOMEHOW OR OTHER the present season does not seem favourable to equanimity of Municipal temper. The following is reported by the *Times of India*:

A lively passage of arms was carried on at the meeting of the Town Council on Wednesday between Dr. Blanc, and Mr. Nowrozjee Furdoonjee, and subsequently between Sir Frank Souter and Dr. Peterson. Dr. Blanc expressed his regret that at the last meeting one or two of the members, like "school boys and sneaks," should have drawn the chairman's attention to the fact that some of the members left before the conclusion of the business. Dr. Peterson took exception to the word 'sneaks" being used; and Dr. Blanc afterwards expressed his regret at having used it; and added that he left the meeting last week owing to emergent business elsewhere. Mr. Nowrozjee Furdoonjee also took exception to Dr. Blanc's remarks. Sir Frank Souter, the chairman, remarked that he would take to himself the right of allowing members to leave the room in cases of emergency, and he would resign the chair if the right were denied him.

The question is—should a member be entitled to a full fee if he does not attend a meeting throughout.

WE TAKE from the *Englishman* the following telegrams about the Salem Riots case:

Madras, April 23.—Vijarsghava Chari's case against the Secretary of State was commenced in the Madras High Court to-day, Justices Kernan, Hutchins, and Muthusawmy Iyer being on the bench. Mr. Branson opened the case, submitting that the plaintiff had not been guilty of misconduct or neglect of duty. As the Governor in Council could only remove plaintiff for one of those causes, the action of Government had, therefore been illegal, wrongful, and malicious. The plaintiff, therefore, prayed that the order of Government, of May 1883, be declared null and void, and he further claimed damages to the extent of ten thousand rupees. A long argument then ensued as to who should be the first to call evidence, and it was decided, after plaintiff had given way on one point, that Government should proceed to show that the removal of paintiff from his office as Municipal Commissioner was legal.

Madras, April 23.—The Salem case was continued this day. Mr. Branson, in replying to the Government case, said that the misconduct imputed to plaintiff was simply that he acted as a partisan. This Mr. Branson denied. He said he would call evidence to refute the statement. The Advocate General had not, he said, proved justification, and no evidence had been produced to prove that the Governor had used discretion in removing the plaintiff. The plaintiff was then called, as were also two Municipal Commissioners and two other witnesses, who stated that plaintiff had not used such immoderate language at the meeting of the commission as was stated in the reports circulated to Government. Mr. Branson now contended that he had shewn that the statements on which the Government were said to have acted were incorrect and untrue. Even the Government reports had not been scrutinized by the Governor as was required by the Act. The only endorsement on the plaintiff's petition, the petition to the Governor, was the remark by Mr. Carmichael that "I do not think the plaintiff is a conjuror, at least he will not conjure us." Before the case concluded, Mr. Justice Hutchins remarked that the Government had not shewn what specific misconduct had induced them to remove the plaintiff. Judgment was reserved.

THE CALCUTTA CORPORATION has appointed temporarily Dr. O'Brien to be the Health-Officer of the Town on Rs. 700 a month.

THE EXCISE Commission closed its labours on the 10th instant. It began its labours on the 9th of December. We hope the report of the Commission will be soon made public. Can it not be published before the record of the Government Resolution on the subject? Then the light of public opinion may be thrown upon it.

IT IS stated that the electric light at the Bombay High Court has proved a failure. Gas is now to be substituted for it.

A PARSEE gentleman, Mr. Ginwallah, has been taking his countrywomen to task—at least such of them as have adopted European manners and customs. He accuses them of artificiality, frivolity, vanity, and a hundred other things, which he regards as the direct result of a superficial English education. He complains that they are being rapidly denationalized, and considers that their condition calls for immediate reform. Mrs. Jussawala, a Parsee lady, has taken up the cudgels, on behalf of her calumniated sisters, whom she defends in a vigorous letter to the *Times of India*. Mrs. Jussawala writes:

We rejoice to find that English manners and customs are far better than Hindoo manners and customs. It is true that those who are in straitened circumstances are often reduced to penury if they live extravagantly. They are then censured and ridiculed by their fellowmen. If, in their prosperous circumstances, they adopt the European mode of living, they do nothing reprehensible. No doubt the Parsee ladies of the present age are not properly educated, and their brain has not consequently been cultured. But the ostentatious and showy appearance which they put on it not necessarily owing to their imperfect education. Experience shows that many well educated Parsee youths are elated with their education, and instances may be found, even among well-educated European girls, to whom this remark applies.

Bravo!

OUR CORRESPONDENT at Bhowanipore in the Burdwan District writes:

The appeals against the order of the Collector of Burdwan on the apportionment and realization of the cost of raising the embankment at Jankully which is breached at places, came off for hearing before the Commissioner on the 22nd April current. The Collector's orders have been set aside. This would not have taken place if the Collector Mr. Coxhead had himself seen things with his own eyes. It was a mistake to have left the work in the hands of an unexperienced officer.

We have had pretty heavy showers here on the 18th instant.

THERE WERE 428 deaths in Calcutta during the week ending 19th April, of which 207 were from cholera, 24 from small-pox, 72 from fevers, 20 from

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bowel-complaints, 5 from accidents and suicide, 26 from pthisis and asthma, 22 from tetanus and the rest from other causes. Infant mortality 64. Among non-Asiatics and mixed races the deaths were 11. The average of daily mortality was 61·1. There is a perceptible decrease in cholera mortality; still the ratio of deaths per 1000 of population is 51·5.

WE TAKE from the morning papers the following telegrams of the week:

London April 19.—General Gordon has written to his friends in a desponding tone concerning the safety of Khartoum.

19.—The Corporation of the City of London has adopted resolutions to oppose the Government Municipal Bill by every means.

21.—The *Daily News* in a leading article announces that a Conference is to be held to consider the financial engagements of Egypt.

21.—Sir Samuel Baker has received a telegram from General Gordon proposing, in consequence of the decision of the British Government not to send British troops to Berber, to appeal to the millionaires of England and the United States to pay Turkish troops to rescue Khartoum. General Gordon has also telegraphed to the British Government that he will henceforth act on his own discretion. The Duchess of Edinburg was yesterday safely delivered of a daughter.

22.—The Premier, in reply to a question in the House of Commons last night, said that it has been confirmed that Shendy and Berber were in a precarious position. General Gordon's latest communication, however, affirmed the security of Khartoum. It is confirmed that the British Government have proposed a Conference to consider the financial engagements of Egpyt.

23.—A severe shock of earthquake, lasting thirty seconds, has taken place in the eastern counties, causing serious damage at Colchester, Ipswich, and several villages in the neighbourhood. Spires and chimneys were overthrown, and several people were injured.

24.—After consultation with Mr. Egerton and Sir Evelyn, Wood, the Egyptian Government has recommended the British Government to send an expeditionary force, consisting of British and Egyptian troops, to Berber. At the Cabinet council held yesterday this proposal was brought under consideration. It is reported that the Powers have accepted in principle the proposal for the Conference on Egyptian finances.

24.—In presenting the budget to the House of Commons Mr. Childers stated that the revenue for the ensuing financial year is estimated at £85,562,500, and the expenditure at £85,312,500 The national debt will be reduced by eight millions sterling. In order to meet the deficiency caused by the light gold coinage, the right hon. gentleman proposed to issue ten-shilling pieces containing nine-tenths of gold to the present half sovereign. A reduction of interest on the national debt will be effected either by the redemption of three per cent. consols at par, or by the substitution of two and three quarter per cent consols, issued at 102 and redeemable in 1905, or two and half per cent. consols to be issued at 108 (qy.) No change will be made in taxation.

24.—Mr. Gladstone, replying. to a question in the House of Commons this evening, said that both the country and the Government recognised their obligation to secure the safety of General Gordon, and that her Majestys Government is prepared to fulfil that obligation if required.

Cairo, April 20.—Three hundred refugees, sailing from Shendy to Berber, have been almost entirely massacred by the rebels. Berber is now entirely surrounded by the enemy and the Governor is in despair.

21. Sir Evelyn Baring and General Graham started for London to-day.

WE HAVE to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of the under-mentioned publications and periodicales:—1. Report of the Census of British India. taken on the 17th February, 1881, vols I and III. 2 Report on the Administration of the Ajmere-Merwara District for 1882-83. (Selections from the Records of the Government of India, Foreign Department, No. 195.) 3. Progress Report of the Forest Administration in Ajmere-Merwara for 1882-83. 4. A Hand-Book of Geometrical Exercises Part I. By Hurihar Prosad, 3rd Teacher, Jhawgong H. C. E. School, Patna. 5. Journal of the National Indian Association, No. 160. April, 1884. 6. The Friend of China. vol. VII. No. 4. 7. The Stationery Trades Journal, vol V. No. 49. 8. The Exodus to Elysium—a 1st-of-April satire by Seraph—dedicated to the Right Hon'ble M. E. Grant Duff. (Madras.) 9. Posooputty Sombad—an Historical Romance in Bengali (corrected and reprinted from the Bunga Dursana.) 10. Hahnemann—A Homœopathic monthly Journal in Bengali. vol II. No. 1.

The Hindoo Patriot.

MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1884.

THE CRIME OF COLOR AGAIN!

THE *Gazette of India* of the 19th instant contains the Government Resolution on the new pension rules and provident fund for the Engineers establishment. The Resolution thus begins:

With the sanction of the Secretary of State, the following improved scale of ordinary pensions for the European Civil Engineers of the superior Engineering Branch of the Public Works Department and those who may be transferred from that branch to any other branch of the Department has been adopted:—

No. of years' service	Sixtieth parts of average emoluments.	Subject to a maximum of	
10	20	Rs. 1,000	
11	21	1,400	
12	22	1,800	
13	23	2,200	
14	24	2,600	On medical certificate.
15	25		
16	26		
17	27	3,000	
18	28		
19	29		
20 to 24	30	4,000	Without medical certificate.
25 and upwards.		5,000	

All officers now in the Department will, at the time of retirement, be allowed the option between the above scale and the pensions allowable under present rules.

The following especial additional pensions are also authorised as rewards of approved service for those officers, who serve in the high and responsible positions of Chief and Superintending Engineers:

	Extra pension over and above that allowable under the scale of paragraph 1,
To those who have served three years as Chief Engineers or who may have been graded as such	Rs. 2,000 per annum.
To those who may have served three years as Superintending Engineers	1,000 ,,

The above rules will apply, without further interpretation, to class II, and III (I) of Schedule B of the Civil Pension Code. How far they may be applied to other European Engineers is a matter regarding which orders must for the present be reserved.

The provident fund is constituted as follows:

The institution of a voluntary Provident Fund for all Civil Engineers of the Department on the following basis is sanctioned:—

(1.) The contribution to be 5 per cent. on salaries to all subscribing to the fund, with voluntary contributions of a further 5 per cent.

(2.) Compound interest at 4 per cent. on such payments to be annually credited by Government to each officer subscribing.

(3.) The sum which will thus accumulate to the credit of an officer to be his absolute property to be handed over to him unconditionally on quitting the service, or, in the event of his death before retirement, to his legal representatives.

The new rules regarding pension embodied in the first 3 paragraphs of this Resolution will apply with retrospective effect from the 1st May 1883 to all classes of Civil Engineers to whom they are applicable.

Subscriptions to the Provident Fund may be made, under instructions that will issue hereafter, with effect from the 1st April 1884.

It will be seen from the above that the benefit of this Resolution is confined to the *European* Civil Engineers of the superior Engineering branch of the Public Works Department. The Native Engineers are religiously excluded. The Resolution is not extended to the subordinate branch, which is for the most part reserved for the Natives. If any member of the subordinate branch be admitted he must be a *European*. Now, what are the advantages accorded to the European Engineers of the superior grade? In the first place they are permitted to retire without medical certificate after 20 years' service, whereas the ordinary rule for the public services generally is 30 years' service. Then pensions will commence immediately after ten years' service. Further, there is a gradation scale of pensions after 10 years' service, which will give the recipient more than what he would have received had he applied for pensions under the ordinary rules. And lastly the higher officers such as Chief Engineers and Superintending Engineers, who may have served for three years in those capacities, will be entitled to an extra pension over and above the sum prescribed under the above rules, varying from Rs. 1000 to 2000 per annum.

Now, what is the object of offering these especial facilities to the superior European officers of the Public Works Department for pension? Why in their case the old rule of 30 year's service without medical certificate should be reversed and 20 years' service be substituted instead? Is the work exacted from them more onerous, more injurious to health and therefere entitling them to a more generous consideration than the other branches of the Public Service? If, again, the work be really of that nature, does its character change when it is performed by poor natives of the subordinate grade? Why, again, are the pensions of the European officers raised when the pensions of no other class of public servants are increased? Surely the superior European Officers of the Public Works Department are not the pet children of Government and the other public servants step-children. It is shrewdly suspected that the object of granting these facilities to the superior European officers of the Public Works Department is three-fold, firstly to benefit them individually, secondly to facilitate promotion in the service, and thirdly to help the admission of Cooper's Hill men. In all these considerations the claims of the poor native officers are ignored. The native officer will work from the early morn to the dewy eve, from the year's end to the year's end as before, and live in jungles and bogs not unfrequently having as his food a few grains of parched rice and goor, moving without intermission but without adequate travelling allowance, and receiving more kicks than half-pennies from his accidental superiors, but no step is taken for the improvement of his position and prospects. He is a black man, he has no brother or cousin as M. P., he has no friend to advocate his cause in the *Times* or the *Daily News*, he has no one to pull the wire for him at the India Office, he has no voice in the Indian bureaus here, he therefore remains unpitied, unlamented, unsympathised with, and unfriended. It was hoped that the Government would be an impartial dispenser of patronage, would like the sun in the heaven shine equally upon its European and Native servants, and would hold with an even hand the scale of justice between them, but, we are sorry to say, it is one-eyed and one-handed. It looks to the interests of its European servants chiefly; it pours with one hand all its favours upon them *vide* the Resolution under comment. Little did we expect, we confess with sorrow, that this invidious inequality of race would be proclaimed under a solemn Resolution of the State under the Government of Lord Ripon—little did we expect this after the noble vindication of the Queen's Proclamation by His Lordship in the Council Chamber. Little did we expect that after the humiliating Ilbert Bill compromise His Lordship would seal with his sanction a political charter in favor of a particular class of European officers to the exclusion of the native officers of the Department. But the deed is done; it may, however, be yet retrieved by extending to the Native officers of the Department the same privileges that have been accorded so generously to its superior European officers.

The feeling, which the Resolution has produced among the Native officers of the Department, is one of intense dissatisfaction and discontent. We have received a bitter growl, which we give below:

DEAR SIR,—Last Saturday's *Gazette of India* publishes a very favorable scale of pension rules and formation of a provident fund for the European members of the Engineering grade of the Department of Public Works. The Government has also in contemplation an elaborate scheme for their promotion. Cannot one with decency ask why the subordinates of the department have been left out? Does organization of the department only mean framing of favorable rules for the superior Engineering grade only? In former days, whenever there was a revision, the Government had also considered the grievances of the subordinates simultaneously, but the present deviation by the Government of a liberal Viceroy shews maximum partiality in the framing of State rules. This again reminds us of the benevolent Ilbert Bill, Jury for Europeans and no Jury for natives, and we fear Lord Ripon will bless us with many such liberal rules.

The Department is now filled to brim with a very vast number of Engineers, necessitating employment of Executive Engineers in each Divisions, which were formerly held by native subordinates on small pay and allowances. Additional numbers are expected every year from Cooper's Hill, they are Europeans, and Indians must pay highly for them and others coming. But in the meanwhile, native temporary hands have been done away with. Natives have now no claim to the service of their own country. Is not Lord Ripon observing the Queen's Proclamation in excluding educated competent natives from employment in the Engineering grade of the Department of Public Works?

GRIEVANCE.

THE DEPUTATION ON THE SILVER DUTIES.

A DEPUTATION from the East India Association, headed by General Sir O. Cavenagh, recently waited upon the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the subject of the duties which are levied on gold and silver plate imported from India into England; and the hardships experienced by the gold and silversmiths of India in having their productions often broken up by the operation of what is known as the "Hall-marking" laws. The spokesman of the deputation was Mr. Orr, who is connected with a well known firm of jewellers and silversmiths in

Madras. Mr. Orr stated the case of the Indian workmen forcibly and fearlessly. He clearly pointed out the great injustice which is inflicted upon the gold and silversmiths of India by the existing system. The deputation proposed the total abolition of the taxes on gold and silver plate, on the ground that their continuance involved a violation of the principles of Free Trade, to which the leaders of the Liberal party are pledged. The deputation further urged that people of India are distinctly entitled to demand the repeal of the obnoxious duties, which practically close the English market to one of the choicest products of their industry.

Mr. Childers, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, promised that the matter should receive the careful attention of the Government. We earnestly hope this promise will be fulfilled. As things now stand, Indian and other foreign productions in silver are virtually prohibited from importation into the United Kingdom. This prohibition, as the reader knows, is owing partly to the heavy import duty and partly to the operation of the "Hall-marking" laws. At present all imported silver plate is subject to a customs duty of 1*s.* 6*d.* per ounce, which amounts to about 33 per cent. of the value of silver. In order to deprive the tax of its protective character, the same amount is levied on home-manufactured silver plate in the shape of an excise duty. The taxes yield the paltry sum of £48,000 or less than five lakhs per annum, and for the sake of this trifling amount, England, the great apostle of Free Trade, maintains these obnoxious duties. "These taxes," says Mr. McKay Smith in a paper read before the East Indian Association meeting in London on the 28th February last, "operate as a hindrance to the prosecution of an important trade, and to the progress of the country in the cultivation of a refined and beautiful art. They are, moreover, the direct cause of the expatriation of many of our most skilled artisans to another manufacturing country where the trade can be followed under more favourable conditions than here, and of avoidable misery and want among those who remain. I have characterised them as a remnant of protective legislation. They have their root in that tyrannical disposition of gratuitous interference with the smaller details of daily life so congenial to the protective spirit. But it will be asked how do I justify my allegation in view of the fact that the duty is equally levied on the home-made and on the imported products. I answer that this equality is more or less of a delusion. An English silversmith by sending his goods to Goldsmith's Hall for assay in a nominally unfinished state obtains a rebate of duty amounting to 3d. per ounce. The foreigner must either dispense with this advantage and pay the full toll of 1s. 6d. per ounce on the finished product or in the alternative event establish a workshop in London with some of his best workmen in it to finish the goods after they are returned to him. And not only so. Many goods, and those of the highest class, can only be sent in for hall-marking in a finished state at the cost of irreparable injury. I therefore claim the existing law as essentially a protective one to the home trade on goods which are subject to both duty and hall-marking. The fact corresponds to theory. The protective effect of the existing law to the home manufacturer so far as regards goods for English use, is practically complete." Yes, the protective effect of the existing law to the home manufacturer cannot be denied, though the duty is equally on the home and on the imported product. The light import duties on cotton goods until recently imposed in India were far less protective in their operation than the heavy taxes levied in England upon Indian and other foreign productions in silver. These duties did not stand in the way of the importation of English and other foreign cotton goods. This has been proved to demonstration by the fact that the remission of the Indian cotton duties has not stimulated the importation of English goods into the country. But the English silver duties virtually prohibit the importation of foreign productions in silver into the United Kingdom. We must also bear in mind that compulsory hall-marking is more injurious and protective than the duties levied upon Indian silver work. In the case of home-made silver plate, the plate is sent to the Assay Office while in an unfinished state, and polishing is done afterwards. But in the case of imported silver plate the assaying has to be done on the finished article. This process in any case necessitates the return of the article to the workshop, and in most cases does it irreparable injury. The blunt truth is that the hall-marking process is so conducted that the inconvenience involved in it falls much more heavily on the imported than on the home-manufactured article.

Now, after what has been said above there can be no manner of doubt that the English silver duties are inconsistent with the principles of Free Trade. England is never tired of lecturing the Government of India on the subject of Free trade *vrs.* Protection. England severely denounced the levying of a five per cent. duty on English piece-goods—an impost which did not offer the slightest obstacles to the sale of goods in India, and which at the same time contributed a handsome amount to the public revenues. India has been made to surrender this legitimate and excellent source of revenue. But England herself is still levying on Indian silver works a duty of nearly 35 per cent. The truth is that England forces her manufactures duty-free into the Indian markets, while she is driving away an Indian art product from her market. So much for England's profession of Free Trade principles.

MR. CONNELL ON INDIAN RAILWAY EXTENSION.

MR. A. K. CONNELL has done yeoman's service to the people of India by showing up the true financial position of Indian railways. At a meeting of the London East India Association held on the 18th ultimo under the presidency of General Sir O. Cavenagh, Mr. Connell read a thoughtful paper on "Indian Pauperism, Free Trade and Railways." The facts and arguments adduced in this paper deserve the careful and attentive consideration of all persons who are now so thoughtlessly agitating for the construction of more railways in India, without any regard to the circumstances of the country. The position taken up by Mr. Connell in the paper under notice is that the present agitation in favour of further railway extension in India is due to the clamours of certain powerful commercial classes in England, working only for their own self-aggrandisement. Now that there has been an extensive fall in the prices of railway materials, it is only natural that the Middleborough rail makers should do their best to persuade the Government of India that the best thing they could do to promote the prosperity and well-being of the teeming millions of India would be to enter upon the construction of railways on an enormous scale with borrowed funds. Other mercantile classes have, as might be expected, joined in the cry. They know very well that railway development in India would have a beneficial effect on the languishing industries of England, and would thus bring grist to their mill. And to attain their selfish ends, the Manchester merchants and Middlesborough rail-makers have come forward, under the cloak of philanthropy, to assure the Secretary of State and the Government of India that further railway extension would confer incalculable benefits upon the people of India.

But the unrepresented and dumb millions of India, as Mr. Connell justly says, have a right to be heard on a question which so deeply and intimately concerns them. These philanthropic English merchants who are so very anxious that their Native fellow-subjects should enjoy the inestimable blessings which would flow from the construction of more railways would not invest a single farthing in the undertaking without a guarantee from Government. They forget that the State cannot afford to speculate like private capitalists, "because," as Sir Alfred Lyall pertinently remarked at Fyzabad the other day, "the risk is the risk of the whole country, not of people who contribute voluntarily to a venture, but of the tax-payers who contribute involuntarily who are not consulted, but who nevertheless have to find the interest, whether the returns to the interest are good or bad." It is on these grounds that the Indian tax-payer has a right to be heard on the question, and we are exceedingly glad that Mr. Connell has come forward as their spokesman. Under the present system of governing India there is always great danger of the interests of the unrepresented and dumb millions of India being sacrificed to those of powerful commercial classes in England, who have influence enough to make themselves heard. Mr. Connell observes :—"The fact is that the essential conditions of our present method of administering Indian affairs are such that it is impossible for the most benevolent intentions to realize. On the one hand, in India there is an alien bureaucracy which, however able, high-minded and hardworking, is always tempted by the force of its own ideas and wishes to overlook the ideas and wants of the Natives, to favor a showy rather than a useful policy, to identify its own obvious interests with the less obvious interests of the people committed to its charge, to foster the growth of the State revenue rather than that of private fortunes, and to regard the creation of a department as the salvation of an empire. On the other hand, in England is to be found a variety of powerful commercial classes, concentrated chiefly in Lancashire, naturally desirous of pushing their respective trades, using all their political interest to coerce Parliament and not over-sensitive, so long as their objects are attained, as to the means to be employed. Lastly, there is the Indian Council, composed of Anglo-Indian officials, who are supposed to be the pre-eminent protectors of the interests of India, but who in many cases are merely the staunch champions of their own hobbies, which with the screen of a Council-Chamber, and without any check from public criticism, they are able to side to death. It is under such conditions that the productive public works scheme has been carried out, and an enormous foreign debt foisted upon India. Armed with military, political, and commercial arguments of unquestionable—because unquestioned weight, Simla and Manchester, Calcutta and Liverpool, have met and kissed eached other, while the criticism of the Indian Council has taken the form of a battle over guarantees and gauges. The one point which ought to have been considered, and seems to have been but slightly considered, is the effect of the foreign debt on the pocket of the Indian tax-payer, and of railway construction on the welfare of the dumb labouring masses. It is the condition-of-the people question that is now attracting the attention of the Native Press, and it ill becomes English statesmen to attempt to salve India's sores by hollow phrases, such as "the blessings of free trade,' 'the development of resources,' 'the boon of cheap British capital,' and 'the flourishing nature of the foreign trade,' if the people of India declare all the while a sword is being gradually thrust into their very bowels. Already the circulation and nervous system of a delicately adjusted social organism has been seriously damaged, and various remedies have been tried, while here and there are apparent unmistakable symptoms of death by inanition. The sword has been forged in England, but it is driven home by the Indian Government. It is the sword of the capital—railways." These thoughtful observations should receive the careful consideration of the advocates of railway extension in India. All intelligent and unprejudiced persons will agree with Mr. Connell in thinking that the one point which ought to be attentively considered in connection with the subject is the effect which railway development with borrowed or guaranteed capital would have on the pocket of the Indian tax-payer.

This naturally brings us to the important question—are Indian railways sound and profitable investments? Mr. Connell examines at some length into their financial results. He conclusively shows that the official contention that Indian railways are now paying their way, is untenable. In noticing in a recent issue memorials submitted by the Calcutta and Bombay Chambers of Commerce we drew public attention to the fact, that up to the end of of 1882-83 Railways cost the tax-payer nearly 31 crores of rupees. Mr. Connell points out that the arrears of interest advanced by the State out of taxation now reach, in round numbers, the sum of 32¾ millions, and if compound in-

terest were charged since 1850, this sum would be largely increased. Again, since 1876-77, the loss by exchange on the payments to railway investors in England amounts to a very large sum. As a matter of fact, so far from the Indian railways now paying their way, there is still an annual deficit of about £1,400,000 on the State and Guaranteed lines. Including the loss by exchange but without counting compound interest, the Indian tax-payer has had since the beginning of railway construction to bear a loss of no less than 37 millions sterling. "These items of past interest charges, and loss by exchange," justly remarks Mr. Connell, "are persistently ignored by those who advocate the construction of more railways. Or if they do recognise them, they maintain that railways can be built more cheaply now, and that increased exports will appreciate the rupee. In reply to them it may be pointed out that the railways already built occupy the best trade routes, and, as far as the experience of the last four years goes, the increase of the export trade has not appreciated the rupee, the reason being as we shall see later on, that the greater portion of the profits of the foreign trader are absorbed by English traders and the Indian Government, and hence the demand for silver remittances does not increase as might be anticipated." The official contention that Indian railways are now paying their way has naturally given a handle to the mercantile class for demanding further railway extension. The European merchants tell the Government, "that when railways are such paying concerns as you represent them to be, why not spend 20 or 30 millions on them every year." On the other hand, the Government replies "that as experience has proved to demonstration the remunerative character of Indian railway enterprise private capitalists should undertake the construction of the additional lines required without a guarantee from the State." But the real truth of the matter is, that Indian railways do not pay their way, and that is the reason why private enterprise will not take the risk without a guarantee from Government.

THE MADRAS RIVERS CONSERVANCY BILL.

Not to be behind-hand in the spirit of the age the Government of His Excellency Mr. Grant Duff has inaugurated a measure which is more distinguished for its tendency to encroach upon private rights and interests than to contribute to the public weal. A Bill has been introduced into the Council of His Excellency the Governor of Madras for making Laws and Regulations under the title of the Rivers Conservancy Bill, which has had the effect of evoking great dissatisfaction among all classes of landed proprietors, whose interests the Bill affects, and the people whose interests have been specially affected are those of riparian districts, specially Tanjore. At first hearing the title of the Bill may suggest an idea of great practical benevolence. Certainly, who can question the utility of a measure which has for its object the improvement of the channels of rivers and the removal of obstacles to navigation? But let us see what its practical import is.

One section of the Bill provides that after the survey of a river shall have been completed and approved and a notification issued by the Governor in Council, no new cultivation of any kind shall be commenced or carried on by any person upon any land within the limits of a river-bed as defined in the Bill, without the previous permission of the Conservator of Rivers in writing, and it shall not be lawful without such permission to cultivate within the limits of a river-bed any land which has been for any length of time submerged or washed away. It further vests the Conservator of Rivers with power to require any owner or occupier of land usually cultivated or cultivated with the permission of the Conservator as provided for in the Bill to abstain from cultivating such land, and the owner or occupier is required to consider obedience to such order a matter of imperative duty. Another provision not only prohibits the making of any groynes, buildings or construction &c. of any kind within river-bed, but forbids the removal of those already made without the previous permission of the Conservator. The permission of the Conservator in the cases above referred to will under the law define and describe the kind and extent of the cultivation, and the nature of the works or things authorized to be made or done. We have referred to the provision regarding the removal of buildings, groynes, constructions &c., there is also a prohibition against such removals under particular circumstances. The only satisfactory feature in the Bill teeming as it does with injunctions and prohibitions is that, which provides for compensation for damage or loss incidental to execution of its provisions. As in the Municipal and other Acts, works required to be done, removed, or improved, if not effected by the owners concerned, provision is made in this Bill for their being carried out at the Departmental expense and the cost recovered from the owner as arrear of land revenue. With regard to compensation for damages sustained in the acts of the Conservator or his subordinates, if a suit has been brought for the recovery of the same, the defendant is authorised to pay any sum of money as he shall think fit. Again, "no suit is to be brought against the Conservator or his staff for anything done or intended to be done under the Act until after the expiration of three months next after notice in writing shall have been delivered or left at the office of such Conservator and his subordinates." The notice shall explicitly state the cause of action and the name and place of abode of the intended plaintiff and of his agent in the cause, if any, and upon the trial of any such suit the plaintiff shall not be permitted to go into evidence of any cause of action except such as is stated in the notice so delivered. It is *further provided that unless such notice is proved the Court shall find for the* defendant, and every such suit shall be commenced within six months after the accrual of the cause of action. The above is a brief statement of the chief objectionable points in the Bill. In the debate which followed the motion of the member in charge of the Bill to take the third Report on the same into consideration and to pass it, the Hon'ble Mover referred to certain alterations and amendments made by the Select Committee on a second reference being made to it in the light of certain petitions received. The material alterations made were first, in the section which originally authorized surveyors to enter upon private lands and to do all acts necessary for the survey. The amendment referred to will give the public an opportunity to object to the demarcation of any river bed previous to the publication of a notification for enforcing the Act in respect of any particular river-bed. Secondly, the Conservator of Rivers before prohibiting the cultivator of any land usually cultivated within a river-bed and before ordering the removal of any obstruction to the course of a river, must obtain the concurrence of the Collector. Thirdly, an appeal is allowed to the Government in the event of any order being issued for the removal of any building. Fourthly, instead of depending wholly upon the sanction of the Conservator to the making or removal of any groyne, construction or plantation within a river-bed, the proprietor will have to make a simple application to the Conservator for the construction or removal of any new or existing work. If such application be not refused within a month, the proprietor may act according to the term of his application, in case of refusal of the application an appeal is given to the Collector. Fifthly, a a proviso has been added to a section making it incumbent upon the Conservator to report to the Collector the action taken by him in respect of the section, which authorises him to do acts necessary to prevent erosion or breach of embankments. Sixthly, in the sections containing prohibitions and injunctions, penal clauses had been inserted which subjected the wrong-doer for doing what was prohibited and for not refraining from doing what was enjoined to fines, or in default to rigorous imprisonment, the alternative of rigorous imprisonment has been removed. The opponents of the Bill, of whom a non-official European member is the mouthpiece, urge notwithstanding the alterations and modifications above mentioned that, the Bill is uncalled for, that it will involve unnecessary and heavy expenditure of public money, that the eminent rigidity or austerity of administration of the provisions of the Bill as gathered from its tenor will render its operation unpopular and oppressive. They deny strict accuracy of the allegation that damages are inflicted on both public and private property by the unauthorised action of private individuals. As to the statement that much public money is spent on works to counteract the effects of private or unauthorized interference with river-beds, they say that a good case has not been made out to prove that the present expenditure on protective works is very much in excess of what will be incurred under the operation of the Bill. The Bill confers certain rights and privileges upon the officers of the Conservative Department, but its opponents deprecate any measure which would put the executive officers of the State beyond the operation of the civil law for any damage caused by their acts to private interests. We fully concur in the view taken by the non-official European member that the Bill if passed into law will be employed for two main purposes—first eviction from occupancy tenures or profitable enjoyment of lands within river-beds where the occupants either own the lands absolutely or have prescriptive right of cultivating such lands, and secondly, for summary process for eviction from lands within river-beds where occupants have no right of ownership or enjoyment. As regards the two purposes the Hon'ble member above referred to very pertinently remarked that, the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act and those of the Civil and Criminal Procedure Codes are amply sufficient to meet every difficulty which the Bill purposes to obviate. Any one who reads the Bill carefully will at once perceive the truth of this remark; as the member we have quoted observed, the greatest objection to the Bill lies in its oppressive character. It will affect important and extended landed interests, "customs of antiquity connected with the cultivation of riverian and riparian lands are menaced; bathing at a Ferry Ghat, temple shrines and similar constructions on the banks of rivers may be brought under the Act as encroachments. And practically the power of initial interference with all these details of daily work and daily life of the population will rest with the subordinate revenue officers or the subordinates of the River Conservator's Office." The Bill as might be expected has passed the Council. The objectors to the Bill have appealed to the Viceroy. We give below a summary of their objections:

(1) The absence of any necessity for Legislation, (2) the appeal to the collector will prove inoperative, (3) the Bill confers upon subordinate revenue officials or the subordinates of the River Conservator's Office very extensive powers of interference with numerous details of the daily work or daily life of the riparian population, (4) the absolute impossibility of defining a river-bed on account of its shifting character, (5) penalties provided for the breach of the rules laid down in the law are disproportionately heavy (6) the power given to the Conservator to prohibit cultivation threatens serious interference with private rights. We sincerely hope that His Excellency the Viceroy will be graciously pleased to consider the objections raised against the Bill. They seem to be reasonable and just.

THE AMENDED RENT BILL.

I.

To,—The Editor of the "Hindoo Patriot."

Sir,—The Rent Bill after having been subjected to fresh gestation in the Legislative womb for about fifteen weeks, has again been ushered into existence. It now makes its appearance however not as the final product of the Legislative brain, but clothed in tentative flesh and blood; if its frail limbs could stand the rude criticism of an unfeeling world, why then maternal pride would be soothed and the salvation of the country effected at one and the same time, but should, alas! adverse winds cross its path and mar its growth, we are promised that it will be again nursed and nurtured into strength and then made to revisit the "pale glimses" of public opinion in Bengal and Behar.

That, Sir, seems to be the official programme. Now I make bold to say the amended Bill is a premature and forced birth, hurried into development under high pressure incubation. One of the dissentient members rightly complains that sufficient time was not allowed for deliberation. "From the 26th January," observes the Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Pal, the Committee "resolved to sit thrice a week from 2 to 5-30 P. M. and notices of amendment were required to be sent in to the Secretary the day before the meeting. The new arrangement was proposed owing to the amount of work which remained undone and also owing to the near approach of the Simla Season; but I cannot refrain from remarking that apart from personal inconvenience, which it involved, it left the members scant time, scarcely ten hours for the preparation of amendments, and six hours for their study even if one gave his whole time to this work, I considered it my duty to protest against the arrangement as it was neither fair to the individual members of the Committee, particularly to one in my position, being deprived of the opportunity of consulting those whose views I was understood to represent, nor to the momentous interests involved, but my protest was of no avail."

Supposing the Select Committee met twice a week till 26th January last and thence-forward thrice a week till 13th March, there might have been something like thirty-five meetings, and if they lasted three hours and a half, the Committee spent about 120 hours on the Bill. If we remember that they had carefully to revise two hundred and thirty Sections besides the most substantial portion of a most important Regulation (VIII of 1819) and that they had further to reflect upon, digest and discuss no less than forty-one memorials and special communications with numberless enclosures and appendices, we may be permitted humbly to enquire not indeed how this superhanded labor was gone through, but as to the length of time devoted to each Section, perhaps the irrational sceptre may be answered in the words of a great poet slightly modified.

> ——— "Lawgivers when they please,
> "Can wondrous powers assume,
> "Sans bound so bright and blooming are their brain divine."

Seriously speaking the advent of the Simla Season seems to have most abnormally stimulated the intellectual activity of our legislators, and the country has fair reason to complain, of the indecent haste with which the most important measure of the Session was constructed. Of course the functions of the Legislative Council in India are purely autocratic, but the mischief of it is, it simulates the representative phase of more enlightened legislatures, for instance in the matter of this Rent Bill it professes to have reflected in its midst the opinions of the landed classes while as a matter of fact it does not care to give proper opportunities for the expression and communication of those opinions. The landholders have the gravest ground to demur to the justice of a law which is forged and fashioned professedly with the help of two gentlemen who represent their interests, but who are practically debarred all means of taking the sense of their constituents on the provisions of that law.

The truth is this custom of annual migration to the Hills is one of there hydra-headed monsters which must be scotched and utterly destroyed before there can be any real reform in Indian administration. No man can understand why it should be necessary for the higher divinities of the official synod, to indulge in recurring recreations for the greatest portion of the year, the most intellectual men amongst the non civilians, eminent *savants*, distinguished linguists, celebrated lawyers, journalists, and professors, all work in the plains from April to September and no leisure takes place in their brains, nay amongst the civilians themselves every body beyond a well defined circle of secretaries and their analogues to its within mundane elevations but the moment a man is an irresponsible Secretary of State or a Provincial Governor, his sensibility to heat suddenly becomes most unaccountably and awfully acute, his intellectual strength suddenly collapses, his brain refuses to work, and he is a lost man unless he is perched some thousands of feet above the level of the sea.

But we are digressing; the Bill deals in its opening chapters with various classes of tenants, it divides them into four classes,

(1.) Tenureholders
(2.) Occupancy ryots
(3,) Non-occupancy ryots
(4.) Under-ryots.

In attempting to define and describe the first class it makes radical departures from old and well recognized lines of demarcation. The word tenure has now acquired a technical meaning thoroughly precise. It certainly connotes a greater permanency and higher development of rights than a holding for a term, and yet strangely enough it is enacted in cl 5 of Sec. 5 that "when the area of a holding exceeds 100 bigghas and the whole or *part* of it is *sublet* the tenant shall be presumed to be a tenureholder till the contrary is shewn" i e without regard to the condition under which a tenant holds or the term for which he holds, if the quantity of land in his occupation exceeds one hundred bighas and he sublets but one bigha, a rebuttable presumption is legislatively created that he is a tenureholder and in holdings under 100 bighas, if the proportion sublet by him is in excess of moiety the presumption becomes conclusive under Sec. 37.

The practical results of these provisions shall be that the subletting of moiety of even the smallest holding willtake away from the holder the status of a *ryot* and convert him into a tenureholder, while in holdings from 100 bighas upwards, the subletting of the smallest fraction will have the same effect, this classification by quantity appears to be most arbitrary and can not be supported on any equitable consideration whatever. It shall minimize the evil of the absorption of land by the class of occupancy tenants and the non-circulation of it amongst the other sections of tenantry. As matters stand at present a peasant takes a holding, sometime afterwards he finds he is unable to cultivate or does not need the cultivation of the whole, he accordingly sublets a portion to his neighbour, but in so doing he has not the remotest intention of changing his status or delegating his rights to his sub-tenant, as soon as increase of family or improvement of his means enables him to have the benefit of additional lands, he re-enters upon the portion sublet and resumes the cultivation of the whole. This arrangement is attended with material advantages, in the densely peopled tracts of Bengal and Behar where the incidence of population upon land is very high and where all the available culturable area has already been absorbed, sub-letting is essential to the maintenance of a balance of force as it were in the social economy. If as its authors anticipate the Bill spreads a panic amongst the whole body of tenants and prevents them from sub-letting, there would be a most abnormal increase in the ranks of the landless day-labourers, it is inconceivable why the Select Committee desire to stop their further development. In times of scarcity it is these day-laborers who are a standing source of danger and difficulty. Living from hand to mouth, with scanty wages, with an irrepressible tendency to marry and to increase and multiply, their enforced exclusion from the cultivation of the soil is the most fatal step that could have been taken against the interests of the community at large under the present system, sub-tenants holding under occupancy *rayats* get at any rate lands to cultivate and have some interest in the result of cultivation. In some districts as in Birbhum they cultivate on condition of paying two thirds of the produce to their lessors or of dividing it in equal or slightly unequal proportions in other parts of the country. Experience has uniformly shewn as indeed might have been inferred on *a priori* grounds that the sub-tenants as a class are better fitted to stand the pressure of high prices in seasons of drought than the landless day-laborers. It requires no very elaborate argument to prove that on public grounds the maintenance of a class of the population, which though unable to obtain a direct and permanent interest in the cultivation of land, has yet been hitherto allowed to acquire that interest indirectly is a most important condition of success in the solution of the future life-problem of the country. The legislature however professes to put a vigorous ban on sub-letting altogether, supposing they succeed and that sub-tenants as a class nearly cease to exist, will that be a consummation most devoutly to be desired? I am afraid if the Bill becomes law, if occupancy *rayats* find they are unable to cultivate their holdings themselves they will try to do so by hired servants. The Bill does not anywhere avoid stipulations for wages of labor to be paid in kind and most probably the sub-tenants of the present Bill will be the hired servants of the future.

But supposing it was expedient to repress subletting it may fairly be doubted whether the provisions of the Bill will not be calculated to defeat that object. According to Sec. 64 if a tenureholder succeeds in proving that he has paid the same rent for a period of twenty years, it shall be presumed that he has held his tenure at that rent from the time of the Permanent Settlement; and every tenure held at the same rent from the time of the Permanent Settlement will be free from enhancement and therefore permanent under Sec. 11.

Moreover, the restrictions which surround the right of transfer of occupancy holdings do not apply to the alienation of permanent tenures, in fact while the latter have been clothed with all the incidents of property in its fullest and widest sense the former have been so only, subject to a right of pre-emption in the landlord. Now remembering that the conversion of an occupancy holding into a tenure is made wholly optional with the tenant and is the easiest process imaginable, the Bill may be said to offer a most tempting bait to occupancy rayats to convert themselves into tenure-holders.

It may be said that dissociation from cultivation which the conversion of a holding into a tenure will involve, will of itself operate as a deterrent, but the rent may be stipulated to be paid in kind irrespective of seasons of draught or other contingency. Thus while the tenure-holder escapes risks and shuns the disadvantage of a restrictive right of transfer, he gains rather than loses by his new position as sub-lessor.

Viewed therefore from either stand-point of view the Bill will not in any manner conduce to the prosperity of the agricultural population, if it discourages subletting there will be an infinite increase of the landless day-laborers, a class steeped in chronic poverty and dire destitution; on the other hand, if it encourages sub-letting, almost all the occupancy holdings will develope themselves into tenures the right of pre-emption in the landlord will be a delusion and that *bete noir* of the legislature, the money-lender, will stalk on the stage of History in all his ghastly selfishness as the curtain rises on the future of rural Bengal.

It is curious to note how the Indian Government seems to be perpetually haunted with the fear lest their pet prototype of Arcadian prosperity, the occupancy tenant, should be extinct or dwarfed in his rights they seek to encase him in an artificial coat of mail. They fondly hope to embalm him into immortality to render him proof against the influences of the present and the future, but also the course of events waits for no man, no lawgiver's hand can arrest that mighty stream, onward and onward it flows and prince or peasant all must bow to its eddies and whirlpools.

Look at the occupancy tenant of to-day—what is his position? Is he wheedled into sub-letting by force or guile? No, never! He is compelled to sub-let by the very exigenciers of his situation, he knows very well what is good for him. It is absurd to suppose that the man who attends fairs and markets, drives hard bargains for his cattle and grain, would not know how to protect himself in sub-letting his land, the parties with whom he deals are not those ugly landlords whose trail is like the serpent's.

Happily he has to deal with poor peasants evenly matched with him in intelligence and means. If then he sub-lets it is either because he makes more by the transaction than he would be able to do by direct cultivation, or because he can not manage the whole cultivation himself.

Ramdoss Mundal of Bengal or Jumoher Mohato his *Confrere* of Behar has a Jote of fifty bighas. He became straitened in his circumstances, perhaps a plague carries off his kine, a poor family of day-laborers saves sufficient money to enable them to purchase plough, cattle and seed. They take a sub-lease of 12 or 15 bighas for a term, gradually they improve their position, they save more and more till perhaps they are able to get a relinquished holding or purchase one. The day-laborer thus developes himself into a sub-tenant and the subtenant into a tenant, the whole process marks a stage of social development well known in the country, but the wisdom of our rulers can never brook the silent and slow operation of the laws of nature, they want to repress the acting forces of the moment, they want to create an artificial present for the people.

Rightly as the Hon'ble Rai Kristodas Paul tells us, the Select Committee felt the invidiousness of the distinction between the position of the occupancy *rayat* the idle middleman and the drone and the subt-enant, the *bona fide* cultivator, the worker and the busy bee; but if it was necessary to do away with the evil the drone might have been extinguished another survival of the fittest effected without slaughtering the innocent landlord. The Bill, however, immortalizes the drone, gives a new lease of life to the sub-tenant and makes both feed on the ill-fated landlord. It prescribes what may be called a system of double depletion. Perhaps in the "fine phrenzy" of our socialistic law givers, there stood the plethoric zemindar wallowing in imaginary wealth, blessed with a superabundance of the comforts of life, his veins about to burst with that bright precious fluid which if it could only be got would make old rural Bengal young and fresh again, it was not enough then that he should be bled, it was necessary he should be well and profusely bled and so the converted tenureholder *i e* the original occupancy tenant carves out an estate and the subtenant the occupancy *rayat* of the Bill carves out another and all out of him.

Yours faithfully,
C.

HEALTH-RESORTS FOR BENGALIS.

THEIR NECESSITY.

II.

(Continued from the issue of the 14th instant.)

I do not think that it is any inherent weakness of the brain that has led to this sad state of things.

On the contrary the fact that the brain of the Bengali can work such marvels against tremendous odds shews that his original brain power is beyond measure. Our food must certainly be improved. But after careful observation I have come to the conclusion that it is a want of holiday from work that is the root of the evil, that it is the difficulty and expense attendant on a change of air that is the chief cause of the evil. The long vacation in England is fully enjoyed by all. Hence I believe is the ripe old age up to which the intellectual men in England carry on their labours. Medical men there cannot so regularly avail themselves of this general holiday, and it is a notorious fact that successful physicians and surgeons often die prematurely.

The malarious area is fast extending in this country, and may now be said to have become almost conterminous with the jurisdiction of the Government of Bengal. Malarious fevers are diseases which can seldom be effectually cured without a thorough change of air. Quinine and other febrifuge remedies may cure an attack and if continued may secure temporary immunity from the disease, but it is sure to recur unless the sufferer is removed for a time to some place free from malarial influence. In my professional experience I have seen hundreds of people affected by fever, who would have shaken it off by a timely change, pass into an incurable stage of the disease, and I am sure much suffering and many a life would have been saved if health-resorts, within easy reach provided with cheap and well-regulated houses for invalids of all classes of our countrymen, were available.

There is yet another evil which is fast growing to be a cause of great suffering and unhappiness in Bengali homes and which in my opinion would be remedied by freely availing of health-resorts of a certain kind. I allude to the increasing frequency of hysterical diseases among Bengali ladies. With the spread of Western civilization and the concentration of the educated classes into town communities, the seclusion of women is becoming more and more complete. Under the joint family system a large number of ladies used to live together, and if the intercourse did not conduce to a healthful development of the mind it used to give them at least frequent diversions in quarrelling with each other. That system is fast breaking up and each household is now presided over by its only lady who is left much to her own resources. In Calcutta and other large towns a lady of one house can have no intercourse with that of the neighbouring one. When a lady goes with her husband to his place of business absolute solitude, I was going to say, solitary confinement is her lot. On the two sides of my present abode are living two Government officials of rank with their wives. These ladies see no one and talk to no one, while their husbands are at office, and although the two gentlemen mix in social gatherings, their ladies living within stone's throw of each other are not on visiting terms. And one of them is subject to frequent fits of hysteria. The effects of this seclusion is I believe heightened by the little learning which brings within the reach of Bengali ladies the sentimental fiction and poetry that is daily issuing from the press. The seclusion, want of intercourse with others of their class, and the entire absence of physical exercise and fresh air throw the mental faculties out of joint and weaken the reasoning power. Being the sole mistress within her small sphere a morbid selfishness is developed. The reading of sensational novels and sentimental stories raise the emotions beyond the control of reason which in other words is a hysterical state of the mind. That the picture I have drawn is not exaggerated will I have no doubt be admitted by all my countrymen. The only remedy I can suggest for this is a frequent resort to healthy places, where fresh air, change of scene and other means of mental diversion are available.

Thus I think for various reasons the institution of suitable health-resorts has become a necessity for the well-being of our society and the preservation of our race and therefore a *national necessity*.

K. D. G.

LATEST NEWS AND NOTES.

☞ WE ARE requested to state that subscriptions to the Bhudeb Memorial Fund will be received by the Honorary Joint-Secretaries to the Memorial Committee, Babu Bejoykissen Mookerjea and Babu Pearymohun Mookerjea of Otterparah.

WE HAD WELCOMED as a substantial reform the new competitive test for the Subordinate Executive Service when it was first introduced by Mr. Thompson, but we fear it is destined to be a farce. It is now notified that the examination which will be held in January 1885, will be open to all Natives of India who have passed the Entrance Examination of the Calcutta University, or who can produce satisfactory evidence from competent authority of having received a good education up to the standard at least of the Entrance Examination. So that a candidate may or may not possess an Entrance certificate, but will be eligible to admission. In the whole range of Competitive Examinations in India for admission into the Public Service or into the professions, there is not a single branch in which the Entrance certificate is not insisted upon. Even a pleader of the Moonsiff's Court is not allowed to pass the examination unless he holds the Entrance certificate, and yet the Deputy Magistrate who when in charge of a Sub-Division is the arbiter of the destinies of hundreds of thousands of population may be admitted to the examination, though his education may be as low as that of a person who has not passed the University Entrance test. Does not the Government see that by lowering the standard of education for the Subordinate Executive Service it will lower both its efficiency and its *morale*? We confess we did not expect that Mr. Thompson would allow his new system to degenerate within so short a time to this farce. The Resolution continues:

"Natives of India" include all persons born and domiciled within the dominions of Her Majesty in India, of parents habitually resident in India, and not established there for temporary purposes only. Certificates of health (for which a fee of Rs. 4 will be charged), respectability, and good moral character will be required from all candidates without exception or distinction, and no one will be permitted to appear, who, on the date of his application to do so, has completed his 25th year. These applications, accompanied by the necessary certificates and a fee of Rs. 10, must be sent, not later than the 1st December next, to the Under-Secretary in the Appointment Department. To those whose applications to appear at the examination are rejected, the fee will be returned. The examination will be held about the middle of January next, on dates that will be published hereafter.

The probable number of appointments to be competed for will be about six, but the exact number will be notified towards the end of the current year. The successful candidates, between the time of their passing the examination and the time of their obtaining an appointment, will be regarded as probationers, and will be deputed to official duties in the interior in the manner indicated in paragraph 8 of the Resolution of 23rd February, 1883. We object to the 50 Rs. subsistence allowance.

WE HAVE received the following correspondence from Babu Radha Ballabh Chowdry Secretary, Landholders' Association, Town Sherpur, Mymensing:

I beg to inform you that a very ingenuous attack was made upon the Sherpur zamindars of exacting an illegal *Abwab* under the name of *Sahib loke khilan ka kharacha*, in the Government Resolution on Land Revenue Resolution dated 31st October 1883. Taking this, as an authority the Editor of *Bharath Mihir* made violent remarks upon Sherpur zemindars. It was boldly refuted in the columns of *Charu Barta* and the District Magistrate was asked from the Sherpur Landholders' Association, whether he has made any report to the Government about the alleged illegal Abwab. In reply to this, he would officially state that through mistake the names of Sherpur zamindars were written in his report to the Commissioner about Abwab. Under these circumstances it is obvious, that the Resolution was based on an erroneous fact, and thus the honor and reputation of respectable zemindars were unjustly handled with, without any ground whatever. It is indeed deplorable that such a sad mistake should have crept into a Government Resolution, which brings the reputation of a respectable class to discredit. The copy of the Magistrate's letter is sent herewith.

No. 2712-XVIG.

From—R. M. Waller Esq.,—Offg. Collector of Mymensingh.
To—Babu Radha Ballav Chowdhry—Secy. Landholders' Association—Dated Mymensigh, the 13th February 1884.

SIR,—I have the honor to acknowledge your letter asking for a copy of a letter said to have been written by me to the Board of Revenue stating that a certain cess was levied by a zemindar of Sherpur and to inform you that in the last annual Administration Report sent to the Commissioner of this Division, a statement was made that certain Ryats of a zemindar, owning property in the Jamalpur Sub-Division had informed the Sub-Divisional Officer that a cess of the kind mentioned in your letter was levied from them. I believe those men were ryats of Babu . . . . . of . . . . . and not of any Sherepore zemindar and the statement you sent me a copy of must have arisen from mistake.

I have the honor to be,
SIR,
Your most obedient servant,
(Sd.) R. M. WALLER.
Offg. Collector.

This is the way reputations are destroyed under the auspices of the present Revenue Department of the Government of Bengal.

WE REGRET much to learn that Mr. Thomas Jones has severed his connection with the Calcutta Municipality. He has been promoted to the Fourth Judgship of the Calcutta Small Cause Court, which he has fairly earned, and on which we offer him our sincere congratulations, and the duties of this office, he announced at last Thursday's meeting of the Corporation, would leave him little leisure to attend to municipal work. This is a public calamity. Mr. Jones with all his peculiarities and eccentricities was a strong pillar of the Municipality. Although it is difficult to replace J. B. Roberts in the Municipal Council, still no one can deny that Mr. Jones infused a new life into the Corporation, and kept the executive in constant tension. For the last eighteen months he devoted himself heart and soul to municipal work, and did his best to bring into light the mysteries of municipal administration. An uncompromising critic of Mr. Jones' stamp is highly useful to a public body, for his argus eyes are a terror to the executive. Mr. Jones played his part well, and we cannot but deeply regret that his new duties should deprive the Municipality of his valuable aid. We are of opinion that the Corporation should apply to Government and ask it to relieve Mr. Jones of a portion of his judicial duties in order to enable him to continue his services to the Municipality, which are of no less public importance than the other.

IT HAS been brought to our notice that the signallers, and Telegraph Masters employed in the Government Telegraph Department labour under grievances which call for immediate and speedy redress. We cannot persuade ourselves to believe that the Director-General of Telegraphs will knowingly perpetrate or perpetuate a wrong to his subordinates. The first grievance we would mention is the stoppage of the well-earned increment of salary for failure to pass the yearly examination in signalling. At first sight the penalty might seem just, as failure to pass an examination ought to be followed by some penalty. We are told that this examination is compulsory upon all signallers, both those who are only one year in the service and those who have served Government for 15 years, and travelled all over India in the discharge of their duties. The instrument which is used in testing the knowledge of the signallers is an unfinished mechanical instrument of intricate composition in which mistakes are unavoidable, and for failure to pass this examination to impose heavy pecuniary loss is a great hardship. Under the rule the loss to the signallers, who have not attained their maximum salary, is Rs. 4 a month or Rs. 48 per annum, but to the signallers of 15 years' standing it is as much as Rs. 396 a year. This is a grievance which is common to all signallers of all colors and creeds. But the native signallers have in addition to the above special serious grievances, which bring shame upon those, who have entailed them upon these poor hard worked Government servants. These men are denied all holidays both Christian and Hindu, except half holidays on Christmas day, Good Friday and New Years Day. They are not allowed house allowance, though it is granted to Christian signallers. Native signallers remain signallers all their lives, while Christian signallers rise to the posts of Telegraph Master, Assistant Superintendent, and full-fledged Superintendents. Several Telegraph offices have been lately opened, which are placed in charge of native signallers, but they are not styled Telegraph Masters but signallers in charge, and even this small honor they will lose when these offices will be transferred to the Postal Department. We should like to know whether this invidious distinction is made with the knowledge and sanction of Government.

WE NOTE with great pleasure and satisfaction the progress that is being made in the construction of the Tarkessur Railway. The roadway of the Line and the masonry foundation of all the Buildings are well forward, and everything bids fair to be completed before the season for the heavy rains sets in. The line can, however, hardly be opened for regular traffic before the cold season. We hope that the contractors can

manage to give a Trolly service during the rains so as to make the Line as widely known as possible by the time it is passed for regular passenger service by the Government Engineers.

It is a noticeable feature about this Railway that it is the first undertaking of the kind in which a part has been taken by the poorer classes of our countrymen. A large number of the shares have been taken up, we believe, by small investors amongst our native fellow-citizens. We regard this as a most healthy sign. And we sincerely trust that the traffic and the returns of profit may be such as will reward the shareholders for their enterprise.

It is of great importance that this Line should be a success It traverses a thickly-populated country and serves to connect the metropolis with one of the most noted shrines in Bengal, which although so close to Calcutta has hitherto been comparatively difficult of access except in the dry weather. This place, only 22 miles from the East Indian Railway, is now, and will be, until the railway is finished, more than a day's journey from Calcutta. When the line is opened it will be possible to make the journey with ease and comparative comfort in a few hours. and we cannot doubt but that this facility will be largely availed of by many persons, who now desire to visit Tarkessur, but who has neither the time nor the means to spend on a *long* and tedious journey.

For this reason alone we should be anxious to see the venture a profitable and encouraging success. But we would direct the attention of our countrymen to the advantages which the railway will indirectly bring to the other parts of the district. It seems strange and anomalous that the line should stop on the side of the Damoodar—why should it not be extended to Jahanabad? And why should the vast fertile and neglected though densely-populated country in the north of the Midnapore district be left destitute of all access to the railway? This is a question which the Government of Bengal should at once consider.

WE HAVE received the prospectus of a "Treasury of Indian eloquence with biographical notes, issued by Babu Ashutosh Banerjea, Sub-editor, *Indian Mirror*. The prospectus thus sets forth:

It is proposed to publish in a collected form selections from the public speeches of the most eminent men of all parts of India during the last half a century.

The publication aims at two distinct objects, *first*, it proposes to present select specimens of Indian eloquence. *Second*, it will provide a book of ready reference as to the opinions held on the most important questions by our eminent public men of the past and present days.

It will also contain brief biographical notices of the men whose lives, in not a few cases, are not so generally well known as they should be. This part of the work will be of special interest to those who wish to study the histories of the men, who have given a mould and a shape to our national life.

Translations will be given of such speeches as have been delivered in the vernacular. A new feature of the contemplated publication will be that it will reproduce the public utterances of some of our Indian ladies, whom education has helped to break through the prejudices of caste and who have patiently worked to elevate the National character.

The project is excellent, and we wish it every success. It will, as the editor says, entail much labour, expense and trouble. We hope the discerning public will help him with their generous patronage.

A DANIEL come to judgment! A Madge has appeared in the pages of the *Indian Review* to throw light on the Rent question. He thus begins:

Of the baronial flavour which Lord Canning recognised in the Talukdars of Oudh, so far as it has any social or political consistency apart from the inherent economic relation to a leasehold, there is no trace in the sublime refinements of 'patnis' observable in Bengal. There seems to be no limit in law or custom to the process of sub-infeudation, of which a brief outline has just been given; and it follows from the free resort made to it all over Bengal that the chief, if not sole, result of the general improvement in the value of land has been the interposition of numberless intervening estates between the landholder, whose name is recorded as proprietor on the 'Taujib,' or State Revenue Roll, and the ultimate tenant, the cultivators of the soil. Most of the holders of these intermediate tenures have been accurately described as drones. Drawing annuities from land, to the improvement of which they contribute nothing, they feed on an important section of the national resources to which they make no return.

It is not, however, easy to see the bearing of these facts on the essential characteristics of the present Viceroy's land policy, or to realise the good faith of many arguments that have been brought forward against it. If the result, or even tendency, of this policy were to increase sub-infeudation, it might still be an open question whether an experiment, undertaken, on other grounds, for the greatest good of the greatest number, the cultivating masses, should not be persisted in until experience decided, with an authority to which presentiment cannot aspire, whether the advantages aimed at under the experiment could not be attained; and if so, whether they would not compensate for the evils arising out of the prevailing system, especially as that system seems likely to continue, and perhaps extend, whether the experiment is attempted or not. But as the characteristic feature of the policy of the Indian Government is to secure to the last tenant the enjoyment of the beneficial interest with which immemorial usage has invested him, which the earliest British land legislation in India unmistkeably recognised, and all later British Indian legislation has only confirmed or plainly aimed at confirming, it is not easy to understand why any development of sub-infeudation, accidental or designed, should stand in the way of a simple measure of justice. It has been publicly stated in England that the vice of Lord Ripon's land policy in Bengal consists in its provisions for enriching the intermediate tenant at the expense of the actual cultivator. It has been equally publicly stated in India that the crime of Lord Ripon's land policy consists in the provision it makes for enriching the cultivators at the expense of the superior landlord. Both these statements cannot be correct. Whatever colour prepossession may lend to either, neither seems to have any foundation on fact.

What does the writer mean? He apparently condemns the sub-infeudation system, and he does not deny that the chain will be lengthened under the new Bill, and yet he concludes that the new land policy aims chiefly to benefit the cultivating classes. Let the writer read the Amended Bill and then say how the *bona fide* cultivator will flourish under the new Bill.

THE WRITER thus concludes:

No doubt the reform taken in hand by the Government will have to round some curious corners when launched upon a conservative society like that of Bengal, where, as we have seen, even abuses of a grave kind claim prescriptive rights, and evil practices possess a wonderful tenacity. In all likelihood too the obstacles raised by agitators, whether ill-meaning or well-meaning, will multiply or intensify the difficulties of the situation. But mistaken obstruction, whether honest or dishonest, cannot permanently interfere with public justice So much has of late been said in enthusiastic English periodicals about national instincts and national aims, that it may prove useful to statesmen in future to watch the principles on which the latest national policy is being matured in India, under the joint inspiration of national hopes and party politics. An alliance of English gentlemen and Bengali Babus who have no single interest in common, beyond the temporary one of suppressing the cultivating classes on some states, is striving to thwart the government in its determination to rescue and elevate the masses.

This *subjanta* writer, who cannot understand how the extension of the sub-infeudation system will injure the cultivating classes, ventures to tell the public that the Native and the European landlords have nothing in common and that the sole object of their combination is to put down the Bill from a party motive. One who can talk this arrant nonsense is fit to be placed under the care of Dr. Payne.

THE HON'BLE A. MACKENZIE, a leading merchant of Madras presided at the forty-second anniversary of Pacheappa's charities and delivered some pregnant remarks from which we give the following extract:

There never was a country, for which the saying that "the future of a country depends upon its youth" had greater significance than it has for India at this moment. I say unhesitatingly that it depends upon the young men of to-day whether India is to become, as she can and ought to become, a wealthy, contented, and united nation, or to go from bad to worse until her people find themselves wholly unable to meet the constantly-increasing demands of the tax collector. I have lived among you a good many years. I confess I cannot see any satisfactory indication that India is increasing in material prosperity. Her great agricultural class is still, as formerly, occupied in the daily struggle to wrest a mere living from the soil. From the existing professional classes we have a constant outcry of profession overstocked and increasing difficulty in earning a livelihood. It is manifest some thorough change is needed. But to find the remedy we must trace the cause. I believe the root of all the evil is that the whole Empire is living upon the soil, upon the cultivator. The great majority of the population is engaged in cultivating the soil and the remainder, a small minority, form round this great central body a sort of fringe, all concerned, more or less, in the distribution of the surplus products of the soil, but really living in some form or another upon the cultivator and dependent upon him for their livelihood. And yet India purchases from foreign countries every year articles which she requires a large proportion of which she can and ought to make for herself, to the value of some 40 crores of rupees. And there is the true source of all her troubles. 40 crores annually of the income of India, the value of the produce raised on Indian soil, go to pay for articles which the people of India want but which they are too apathetic or too unfamiliar with manufacturing processes to make for themselves, and until the people rouse themselves from their apathy, until they learn how to make what they want for themselves, India must remain poor. Perhaps, many of you are too young to understand the effect of these purchases. I think I can explain the matter by an illustration which will possibly be familiar to you. Imagine a man holding a small appointment in the office of—let us say—the Deputy Collector of Madras, and dependent upon the salary of that appointment for his livelihood, and suppose, instead of doing his work, he prefers to pay a substitute nearly the whole of that salary to go and do his work for him, keeping just enough for himself to keep him from starvation. You would naturally expect that he would be in very wretched circumstances, and you would say it served them right. Now that is just what India is doing. India is paying every year forty crores of rupees to substitutes in Europe to do her manufacturing work for her, and what remains of her annual income after she has given away this sum is just about enough to keep her going in a state which I may call financial starvation.

Well and truly said. But the Government is not honest to the people. It will not teach them the industrial and mechanical arts, which would enable them to learn manufacturing processes, and they are therefore behind-hand in manufactures.

WE HAVE received a report of a case of some importance, which has been lately decided by Mr. Fasson the Joint-Magistrate of Muzufferpore. We give an abstract of it below:

There is an Indigo factory by the name of Shapore Mirchaindigo Factory, of which the partners were a native lady and some European gentlemen, Messrs. Hudson, Boyd and Lamb. The partners were at loggerheads with each other, we mean there was a difference between the native partner on one side and the European partners on the other. After some protracted and harassing disputes between them, Mr. Brett, the District Judge, interceded between the parties and acting as an arbitrator at the request of the parties brought about a settlement by giving an award to the effect that the native co-partner shall buy the European co-partners out for a sum of Rs. 1,75,000. Though the sum was more than double the amount the native partner had received from the European co partners for selling the same share to them in 1881 she resolved to pay rather be subject to an interminable and harassing litigation. So the matter was settled on certain terms and possession of the whole factory passed to the agent of the lady. This was in June 1883. In September following Mr. Byng supported by Mr. Hudson laid the foundation of a new factory in the dehat of Shapore Mirchain utter violation of the undertaking they had given not to do any such thing. The setting up of this factory was the signal for the revival of the old feuds and troubles. The first symptom was the institution of a criminal suit against the Shapore Factory owned by the native lady above referred to. The charge brought was that the people of this factory had looted the crops of some ryots of the new factory Chhapra. The Joint-Magistrate Mr. Fasson was of opinion that the case was a got-up one. The circumstance of including among the defendants the chief amla of the Shapore factory who had no concern with the particular portion of the Dehat, alleged to have been the scene of loot gives a suspicious appearance to the case as the imprisonment of these men would stop the work of the Factory. The Magistrate further remarked that no attempt was made by the Police to trace the looted property, none of the witnesses cited were either unconcerned or disinterested witnesses, enough has been said to show that a conviction would be unwarranted. The whole facts elicited by the Police investigation support the hypothesis that the ryots having cleared off their crops a little prematurely in order to prepare the Kutwali fields for Indigo concerns the happy thought occurred of availing themselves of the forlorn appearance of the fields to wrong the opposing factory with a false case.

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ERRATUM.

Read Sreeram Chatterjee, Saknara, for Sree Nath Chatterjea.

Government Notifications

Calcutta Gazette,—23rd *April* 1884.

General—10th April—Moulvie Syed Husmut Hosein Tempy Sub-Depy Colr, Sarun, is transfd to Sasseram, in Shahabad, from date he joined his apptmt.

11th April—Baboo Soorjee Coomar Sen, Depy Magte and Dey Colr, in charge of the Jahanabad sub-divn of Hooghly Dist, leave for three months, from date he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Bemola Charn Bhattacharjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Hooghly, to have charge of the Jahanabad sub-divn of that dist during absence of Baboo Soorjee Coomar Sen.

Baboo Gopal Chunder Mookerjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Monghyr, is vested with the powers of a Colr under Act X of 1870 in that Dist.

12th April—Mr H Holmwood, C S, reported his departure from India, on special leave, on 4th inst.

Baboo Khetter Gopal Roy, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Furreedpore, to perform the functions of a Colr under sec 4 Act VII (B C) 1880 in that dist.

14th April—Baboo Nadia Chand Dutt acted as Sub Depy Colr for 15 days, from 15th Febry, 1884, for completing the land registration proceedings of the Dist of Pooree.

15th April—Baboo Annoda Prosad Pattuck, Sub-Depy Colr, Bankoora, leave for two months, from 8th inst, or subsequent date he may avail himself of it.

Baboo Kali Podo Mookerjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Balasore, is vested with the powers of a Colr under sec 100 of Act IX (B C) of 1880.

Baboo Juggut Chunder Shome, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, 24-Perghs, is posted temply to the Howrah dist.

16th April—Baboo Nanda Krishna Bose, Offg Jt Magte and Depy Colr, Jamalpore, Mymensingh, leave for three months.

Baboo Juggo Mohun Roy, Depy Magte and Depy Colr and Persl Asst to the Comr of the Orissa Divn, is posted to the sudder station of the Cuttack dist.

Baboo Chunder Seekur Banerjee, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Cuttack, to act as Persl Asst to the Comr of the Orissa Divn.

Baboo Chunder Seekur Banerjee, is also appointed to act as Asst to the Supdt of the Tributary Mehals, Cuttack, and is vested with the powers of a Depy Colr in those Mehals.

19th April—Moulvie Imdad Ali, Sub-Depy Colr, Maldah leave for five days, in extension of the leave granted to him under the order of 9th Jany last.

Baboo Pran Kissen Roy, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, Pooree, is vested with the powers of a Colr under Act X of 1870 in that dist.

21st April—Mr J F Browne, Dist and Sess Judge, 24-Perghs, leave for six months, from 1st May next.

Mr J G Charles, Offg Addnl Dist and Sess Judge 24 Perghs and Hooghly, to act temply as Dist and Sess Judge, 24-Perghs, vice Mr J F Browne' on leave.

Mr J Whitmore, Offg Dist and Sess Judge Furreedpore, to act temply as Addnl Dist and Sess Judge, 24-Perghs and Hooghly, vice Mr J G Charles.

Mr H F Mathews, Offg Jt Magte and Depy Colr, Durbhunga, to act as Dist and Sess Judge of Furreedpore, during absence, on deputn of Mr F J G Campbell.

Mr H H Risely, Asst Comr, Manbhoom, on special duty, to officiate as Under-Secy to the Govt of Bengal, during absence, on deputn, of Mr C W Bolton.

Baboo Rajani Coomar Dutt, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, on leave, to have charge of the Jamalpore sub divn of the Mymensingh dist, during absence of Baboo Nanda Krishna Bose.

The Honble C P L Macaulay, Secy to the Financial Dept, leave for two months and twenty three days from date he availed himself of it.

Mr E N Baker, Offg Under-Secy to the Govt of Bengal to act, in addition to his own duties, as Secy to Govt of Bengal in the Financial Dept, during absence of the Hon'ble C P L Macaulay.

F H Harding, cs, reported his departure from India, on furlough, on 25th March 1884.

22nd April,—In modification of order of 4th inst, Mr E E Lowis, Comr, Chittagong Divin, leave for two months and twenty days, from 1st prox, or subsequent date.

Police—10th April—Mr R W Keown, Tempy Asst Suptd of Police, Mozufferpore, was on leave from 5th to 11th Decr 1883, both days inclusive.

Mr H S Schurr, Asst Supdt of Police, is posted temply to the sudder station of 24-Perghs dist.

16th April,—Mr H Munro, Dist Suptd of Police, Mozufferpore, to act in fourth grade of Dist Supdts of Police from 1st April 1884, during absence of Mr B Rattray.

19th April,—Mr E B Baker, Depy Inspr-Genl of Police leave for three months, from 5th prox, or subsequent date.

Registration,—14th April—Syed Habibul Hossain to be Joint Sub-Regtr of Motihari, Kessariya, in Chumparun.

Education—17th April—Mr G A Stack, Profr, Patna College, temply to be a Profr in the Presidency College.

Moulvie Abdul Jubbar, Depy Magte and Depy Colr, to be Secy to the Dist School Committee of Patna, vice Mr L P Shirres.

18th April—Baboo Shib Chandra Gui, M A, Lecturer, Sanskrit College, to have charge of the current duties of the office of Principal of that institution, during absence of Pundit Mohesa Chandra Nyayaratna, C I E.

Port Trust—15th April—The Lieut-Govr accepts the resignation tendered by Mr F Prestage of his apptmt as a Comr for making Improvements in the Port of Calcutta.

Medical—14th April—Asst Surg Kally Dass Bose, a superny at the Presidency, leave for two months, from date he may avail himself of it.

Municipal—5th April—The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comr of the English Bazar Municipality, in Maldah, of Baboo Bhoirubnath Palit, Depy Magte and Depy colr, to be their Vice-Chairman.

7th April—The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comrs of the Berhampore Municipality of Baboo Mohendro Nath Mukerjee to be their Vice-Chairman.

7th April—The Lieut-Govr approves the election by the Comrs of the Chatra Municipality, in Hazaribagh, of Baboo Sharoda Persad Ghose to be their Vice-Chairman.

12th April—The follwing gentlemen are appointed to be Comrs of the Soory Municipality in Beerbhoom:—

Baboo Dhon Krishna Ghose, M A, B L, Baboo Hem Nath Das, and Baboo Nemye Chunder Saha.

The following gentlemen are re-appointed to be Comrs of the above Municipality:—

Baboo Shyama Das Mozoomdar and Baboo Nobin Chunder Chatterjea.

The following gentlemen are re-apptd to be Comrs of the Comillah Municipality:—

Baboo Mohini Mohun Burdhun, B L, Baboo Shib Chunder Aich, Baboo Hari Mohun Guha, Baboo Raj Mohun Mittra, and Baboo Koylash Chunder Dutta, M A, B L.

14th April—The Lieut-Govr approves the election by the Comrs of the Ranchee Municipality of Mr A W Mackie, Offg Jt Magte and Depy Colr, to be their Vice-Chairman.

Baboo Gouri Sunkar Ghosal is re-appointed to be a Comr of the Baraset Municipality, in 24-Perghs.

The following gentlemen are appointed to be Comrs of the above Municipality:—

Baboo Rajkristo Ghosal, Baboo Mohendra Nath Ghosal, Munshi Raffiuddin, and Baboo Chunder Nath Bannerjee.

The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comrs of the Barripore Municipality, in 24-Perghs, of Baboo Prasunno Coomar Banerjea to be their Vice-Chairman.

The following gentlemen are re-apptd to be Comrs of the above Municipality:—

Baboo Kali Kumar Roy Chowdhry, Baboo Nim Narain Mittra, Baboo Nibaran Chandra Mittra, Baboo Debnarain Dutta, and Baboo Eshan Chunder, Dutta.

The Lieut-Govr approves the re-election by the Comrs of the Hooghly and Chinsurah Municipality of Baboo Dwarkanath Chuckerbutty to be their Vice-Chairman.

Road Cess,—7th April—The gentlemen named below are appointed to be members of the Goalundo Branch Road Committee, in the district of Furreedpore:—

Baboo Mahendro Math Mallik, Inspr of Police (ex-officio), vice Baboo Sital chandra Sanyal, transfd.

Kesaba chandra Datta, vice Baboo Rasik Lal Das, decd

Giris chandra Majumdar, vice Baboo Umes chandra Majumdar, decd.

9th April —Mr K H Stephen, Asst Eng, P W D, Irrign Branch, to be an ex-officio member of the Sewan Branch Road Committee, in Sarun.

11th April—Baboo Ram chunder Mukerjee to be Vice-chairman of the Nuddea Dist Road Committee.

14th April—Mr E Stonewig to be a member of the Hajeenpore Branch Road Committee, vice Mr R Brown, resigned.

Mr T M Cockburn to be a member of the Sasseram Branch Road Committee, vice Mr Morton, resigned.

Notification—21st April—Mr J R Douglas to be Port Officer of False Point and Pooree, and Supdt of Customs, False Point, in place of Mr T Geary, retired from 1st inst.

Judicial Department—11th April—Baboo Kedar Nath Mozoomdar, Second Sub-Judge of Midnapore, is transfd temply to Furreedpore.

Baboo Nilmoni Nag, Second Munsif of Manickgunge, Dacca, to be Rent Suit Munsif of that Chowkey, and is vested with the powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs 50 within the limits of that Munsifi, during absence of Baboo Binod Behari Mitter.

Baboo Jogul Kishori De, B A, B L, to act as a Munsif in Dacca, and to be ordinarily stationed at Manickgunge, during absence of Baboo Binod Behari Mitter.

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NOTICE.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

The 18th April 1884.—Offers from a private firm to maintain a steam transport service between Chandbally and Cuttack having been received, notice is hereby given that the Government steamer and boats will cease to ply on the Kendrapara Canal from June next, when that Canal is reopened for traffic. No special concession will be given to any firm or company, and the public are invited to place steamers and boats on the line.

J. M. McNEILE, Lieut.-Col., R.E. Joint-Secy.

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Uttarpara, the 23rd April 1884. { BEJOY KRISSEN MOOKERJEE, PEARY MOHUN MOOKERJEE.

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Executive Engineer,
Darjeeling Division.

Darjeeling, the 15th April, 1884.

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34	×	23	×	23	„	115
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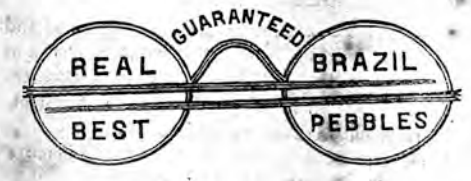

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ধাত্রী।

শ্রীমতী জগৎলক্ষ্মী ঘোষ

বাহির সিমলা, ২১০।১ কর্ণওয়ালিশ ষ্ট্রীট,

সাধারণ ব্রাহ্মসমাজের উপাসনা গৃহের ঠিক উত্তর।

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BIRTH.

On Monday the 21st April 1884, at No. 1, Hornby Road, Fort, Bombay, the wife of Baboo I. C. Bose, Assistant Accountant General, Bengal, of a Daughter.

Bank of Bengal.

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Many of the best Physicians of the day prescribe Darlington's Pain-Curer in the very worst forms of these ailments, with success.

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Directions for using this medicine accompany each bottle in nine languages.

Since the introduction of this celebrated medicine, various preparations and imitations have come into the market When ordering for Darlington's Pain-Curer, insist on your being supplied with what you want, for an unprincipled vendor will try to foist on you a worthless preparation which is likely to leave him a better profit.

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25	64	12	0	48	8	0	41	0	0	25
30	68	8	0	51	10	0	44	0	0	30
35	73	8	0	56	0	0	47	12	0	35
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25	36	0	0	40	0	0	46	0	0	25
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